

seemed too early in the season for finding many herbaceous plants in flower and this was especially the case with the monocotyledons.

Dr. N. L. Britton showed specimens of *Washingtonia longistylis* collected a few days previously near Washington, D. C., differing from Torrey's type of the species in greater hairiness.

Mrs. Britton alluded to the organization of "The Wild Flower Preservation Society of America." Professor Earle remarked upon the region west of the Pecos River, where vegetation has been nearly exterminated by overstocking with cattle, as a proper field for the activities of the Society.

Dr. MacDougal showed a corm of *Amorphophallus*, kept for twenty months in a dark room, where it had flowered. New buds, apparently adventitious, had formed near its base.

MARSHALL A. HOWE,
Secretary pro tem.

NEWS ITEMS

Dr. W. Seward Webb has contributed \$6,000 toward the fund for the purchase and maintenance of the Pringle herbarium by the University of Vermont.

Hon. Addison Brown, president of the Torrey Botanical Club, received the degree of LL.D. from Harvard University at the last commencement.

Professor F. S. Earle, assistant curator of the New York Botanical Garden, was recently granted the honorary degree of A.M. by the Alabama Polytechnic Institute.

Professor Alexander W. Evans, of Yale University, and Mr. Percy Wilson, of the New York Botanical Garden, are making botanical collections in Porto Rico under the auspices of the latter institution.

Dr. William A. Murrill, of the Boys' High School, New York City, is spending the summer in Europe, where he will devote especial attention to the study of type specimens of fungi, particularly those of Fries in Sweden, and those of Berkeley and Cooke in England.

Representatives of the Torrey Club enjoyed the generous hospitality of the Syracuse Botanical Club on the Fourth of July. A party of forty spent the day in the vicinity of the "green lakes," near Jamesville, N. Y. The following day was chiefly devoted to collecting in the saline formation about Onondaga Lake.

"The Home Aquarium and how to care for it" is the title of an illustrated octavo work of 213 pages written by Mr. Eugene Smith and recently published by E. P. Dutton & Co., of New York. The book will prove of service in the determination as well as in the cultivation of some of the common aquatic plants and animals.

We learn from *Science* that Dr. E. C. Jeffrey, instructor in the University of Toronto, has been appointed assistant professor of vegetable histology and general morphology in Harvard University; also that Professor F. A. Waugh, of the University of Vermont, has been called to the chair of horticulture in the Massachusetts Agricultural College at Amherst, Mass.

The recent meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science at Pittsburg was of unusual interest to botanists. The association now includes about 3,500 members, and 320 papers were read at the sessions, of which 79 were purely botanical, while many other titles were presented before various sections and in the meeting of various affiliated societies, the subject matter of which lay chiefly in botany. The vice-presidential address by Dr. B. T. Galloway on "Applied Botany, Retrospective and Prospective" was a masterly presentation of the practical applications made of botanical knowledge and presented a clear outline of the phases of the subjects from which direct useful results may be expected. Mr. F. V. Coville was elected chairman of Section G for the coming meeting at Washington during the convocation week, and Dr. C. J. Chamberlain secretary. Twenty-three papers were read at the session of the Botanical Club, and the committee on nomenclature held numer-

ous and protracted sessions in which definite progress was made in dealing with some of the open questions in nomenclature.

The Wild Flower Preservation Society of America held a business meeting of its board of managers, and a popular meeting, in which the greatest interest was evinced in the purpose and rapid progress of this new organization.

Dr. Halsted's address as past president of the Botanical Society of America was not given owing to his continued illness, but about thirty papers were read before this body, many of which embodied the results of completed researches and represented the principal phases of the entire subject. Dr. B. T. Galloway was elected president and Dr. D. T. MacDougal, secretary, for the ensuing year. This organization passed a series of resolutions on Monday, June 30, 1902, by which the sum of \$500 is set aside from its yearly income, this year and every succeeding year, to be used in making grants in aid of investigations. This measure goes into operation at once, and applications from the members and associates of the Society may be sent to the secretary at any time. The funds of the Botanical Society of America consist of the accumulated dues paid in by the members, and the grants in question probably constitute the only series ever offered in America, the money for which has been contributed wholly by a body of scientific workers. [D. T. MacD.]